

Rurouni Kenshin

SHONEN JUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Nobuhiro Watsuki

volume
27



和月伸宏

NOBUHIRO WATSUKI



JUST BARELY

TO TELL THE TRUTH, THE ORIGINAL IDEA WAS FOR KENSHIN TO BE IN HIS MID-THIRTIES, BUT MY EDITOR SAID "THE MAIN CHARACTER OF A SHONEN MANGA IN HIS MID-THIRTIES?" SO HIS AGE WAS SHIFTED TO JUST BARELY IN HIS TWENTIES, IN ORDER TO MAKE IT WORK WITH THE TIME FRAME.

I RECENTLY REALIZED THAT WATSUKI AND KENSHIN ARE THE SAME AGE.

"JUST BARELY IN THE TWENTIES" SEEMS YOUNG, BUT IS NOT YOUNG. AND VICE VERSA. GOING INTO DEFENSIVE MODE PROBABLY LEADS TO FASTER AGING...

SO I'LL GO SEEK OUT A "CHALLENGE" INSTEAD.

Rurouni Kenshin, which has found fans not only in Japan but around the world, first made its appearance in 1992, as an original short story in *Weekly Shonen Jump Special*. Later rewritten and published as a regular, continuing *Jump* series in 1994, *Rurouni Kenshin* ended serialization in 1999 but continued in popularity, as evidenced by the 2000 publication of *Yahiko no Sakabatô* ("Yahiko's Reversed-Edge Sword") in *Weekly Shonen Jump*. His most current work, *Buso Renkin* ("Armored Alchemist"), began publication in June 2003, also in *Jump*.

RUROUNI KENSHIN
VOL. 27: THE ANSWER
The SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

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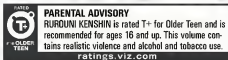
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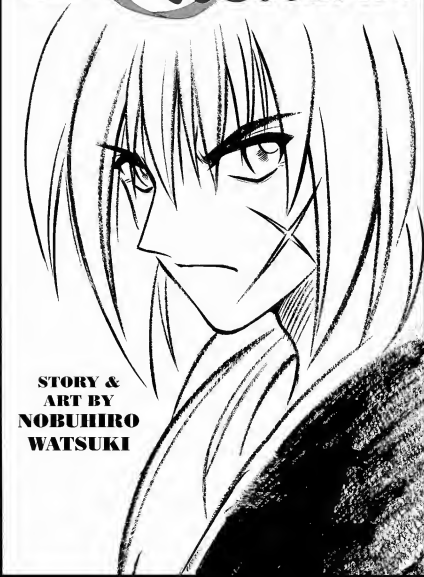


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SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Rurouni Kenshin



**STORY &
ART BY
NOBUHIRO
WATSUKI**

**MEIJI SWORDSMAN ROMANTIC STORY
Vol. 27: THE ANSWER**

Once he was *hitokiri*, an assassin, called Battōsai. His name was legend among the pro-Imperialist or "patriot" warriors who launched the Meiji Era. Now, Himura Kenshin is *furorui*, a wanderer, and carries a reversed-edge *sakabatō* blade, vowing to never kill another soul.



Yukishiro Enishi

Those with grudges against Battōsai have gathered to take their revenge. To make matters worse, Kenshin finds out that the mastermind of this new attack is Enishi, the brother of Tomoe—who died at Kenshin's own hand. And yet Kenshin decides to fight in order to protect the present, and begins by telling his friends of his past.

THUS FAR

Enishi and his crew appear midair above the Kamiya dojo in hot air balloons. In the midst of the battle that follows, Enishi murders Kaoru. Overwhelmed by the guilt of not saving Kaoru, Kenshin exiles himself to the "Fallen Village." However, the others discover that Kaoru's body is actually one of the "corpse dolls" created by Geta. Kaoru has actually been spirited away to the island in Tokyo bay that Enishi's organization uses as a relay point. When a little girl must beg Kenshin for help, he is finally able to realize the truth he holds within himself—a truth he cannot abandon. Meanwhile, Sanosuke has returned to his hometown for an uneasy reunion with his family. He also manages to get into a fight with the local yakuza who have ties to a revolutionary government official. Fight finished, Sanosuke returns to Tokyo in time to join Kenshin and the others on the journey to the island. Kenshin wants to end the conflict with a one-on-one duel with Enishi. But Woo Heishin, Enishi's second-in-command, and his *Su-shin* bodyguards are waiting to greet Kenshin...

明神 弥彦



Myojin Yahiko

相楽 左之助



Sagara Sanosuke

神谷 薫



Kamiya Kaoru

呉 黒星



Woo Heishin

緋村 剣心 (人斬り 抜刀斎)



Himura Kenshin (Hitokiri Battōsai)

四乃 森蒼紫



Shinomori Aoshi

斎藤 一



Saitō Hajime



C

A

S

T



CONTENTS

RUROUNI KENSHIN

Meiji Swordsman Romantic Story
BOOK TWENTY-SEVEN: THE ANSWER

ACT 238

Sū-shin Transformation

7

ACT 239

Sū-shin Battle—Saitō vs. Seiryū

25

ACT 240

Sū-shin Battle—Aoshi vs. Suzaku

43

ACT 241

Sū-shin Battle—

Sanosuke vs. Byakko

61

ACT 242

Sū-shin Battle—Yahiko vs. Genbu

79

ACT 243

**The Dragon and the Tiger
Meet Again**

97

ACT 244

Sword Strikes

115

ACT 245

Hiten Mitsurugi-ryū Defeated

133

ACT 246

The Answer

151

ACT 247

Kyōkeimyaku (Frenzied Nerves)

169



Act 238
**Sū-shin
Transformation**



ろくにん
呉黒星

RURONI
KENSIN

WOO
HEISHIN

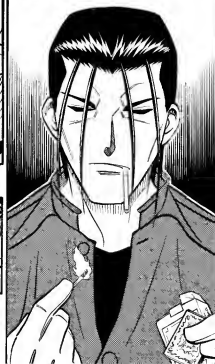
仲宏
和月



ME, ME! LEAVE IT TO
ME! I'M ON A ROLL
TODAY, SO I'LL
LEND ANOTHER HAND!



WHAT?! YOU'LL
JUST DRAG
US DOWN.
SO, NO.



HEY,
YOU CAN
TAKE
ONE ON.

IT'S
FOUR
VERSUS
FOUR.





...FOR
YOUR
OWN
GOOD.

YOU
GOONS
SHOULD
STAND
DOWN...



HUH?



IF YOU
DIE QUICKLY,
YOU'LL ALL BE
SPARED THE
PAIN OF TOTAL
ANNIHILATION.

WILL YOU
PUT ASIDE
YOUR GOONS
AND COME
FORWARD? I
DON'T HAVE
MUCH TIME
TO WASTE.

YOU'RE
HIMURA
BATTOSAI,
THE BOSS'S
ENEMY,
RIGHT?

YOU, THE
SAMURAI
SITTING
ON THE
BOAT...

THEY
ARE NOT...
GOONS.





THESE
ARE ALL
FRIENDS...

...WHO
THIS ONE
TRUSTS WITH
HIS LIFE.



EH...

F...
...RIENDS
?

ENISHI AND
THIS ONE
WILL SETTLE
THE SCORE.

THAT
IS THE
BEST
COURSE.

WHOEVER
YOU MAY BE,
IF YOU ARE
ENISHI'S MAN,
HEAD BACK AND
TELL HIM TO
COME OUT.

TMP

IT'S
USELESS.

!

...UNLIKE ENISHI,
HIS ROLE IS
MANAGEMENT. HE
ISN'T ONE TO RISK
THE FRONT LINE.

TMP

THAT MAN
IS WOO
HEISHIN.
HE
IS THE
SECOND-IN-
COMMAND,
BUT...

...OR SENSED
DEFEAT AND
WENT RUNNING.

TMP

HIS PRESENCE
HERE MEANS HE
WAS EITHER
ABANDONED BY
ENISHI...

THEN WHY
ARE YOU
COMING
AFTER KENSHIN
?
THERE'S
NO
POINT.

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR
BOOKS TO MARK WOO
HEISHIN AS THE
ORGANIZATION'S
NEW NUMBER ONE.

HOW
RUDE.
I AM
NEITHER
ABANDONED
NOR RUNNING
AWAY.

AH,
THAT. THE
EX-BOSS
IS SO
INCREDIBLY
IRRESPON-
SIBLE...
...THAT I
THOUGHT IT
WOULD BE
WISE TO
TEACH HIM
THAT THINGS
DO NOT GO
THE WAY HE
WANTS.

THE
BOSS HAS
IRRESPONSIBLY
THROWN
AWAY HIS
ORGANIZATION.



THE CHILDISH
BOSS OF A
HAND-ME-DOWN
ORGANIZATION...

THIS JOB
IS
CERTAINLY
TURNING OUT
TO BE
UNSATISFYING.

TSK

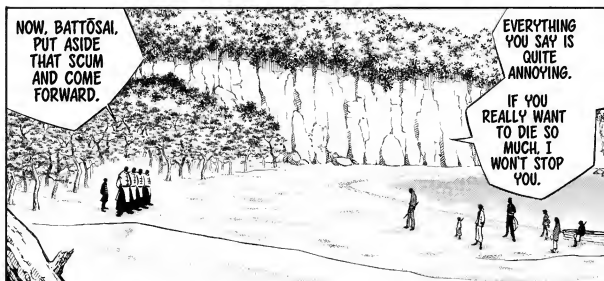


YOU MAY
BE SMART,
BUT YOU
HAVE ALL THE
MATURITY OF
A CHILD.

BASICALLY,
YOU JUST
WANT TO
SPITE
YUKISHIRO
ENISHI.

TMP

TMP



NOW, BATTŌSAI,
PUT ASIDE
THAT SCUM
AND COME
FORWARD.

EVERYTHING
YOU SAY IS
QUITE
ANNOYING.

IF YOU
REALLY WANT
TO DIE SO
MUCH, I
WON'T STOP
YOU.



HURRY UP
AND COME
OUT! I
SAID I
DON'T HAVE
MUCH TIME!!

IF NOT SCUM,
HOW ABOUT
THE PUNK,
THE BRAT,
AND THE
GLOOMY
ONE!

HYAA!



...FIRST
GOONS.
AND NOW
SCUM?

I WON'T
DENY IT, BUT
WHAT ARE
YOU GOING
TO DO?

HEH

A PUNK,
HUH...?

THEN WE'LL
SEE WHO'S
THE BIGGER
BRAT!

KENSHIN
HAS NO INTENTION
OF FIGHTING YOU
GUYS. WILL
YOU STILL COME
AT US, OR WILL
YOU LEAVE?

TMP

...BUT OF
THIS I WILL
WARN YOU...

WHO ARE YOU
CALLING GLOOMY?!
MAKE AMENDS
WITH YOUR
DEATH!!

MY INNATE
PERSONALITY
DOESN'T
BOTHER ME...

...THERE
IS NO
FUTURE
FOR THE
ORGANIZA-
TION.

IF A LEADER
CANNOT
ACCURATELY
DETERMINE
AN OPPONENT'S
STRENGTH...

IT SEEMS
THAT YOU
ALL WANT
TO DIE
HERE!

THAT'S
ENOUGH
!!

SŪ-
SHIN
!!!

AKH!

SHOOP!!

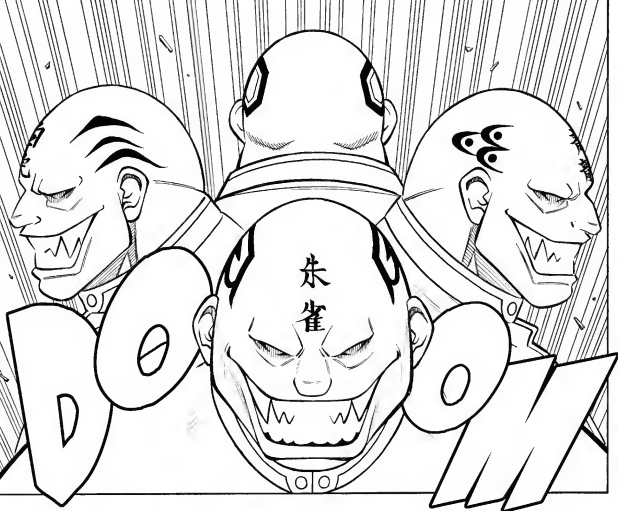
HOW,
WHEN
THEY'RE
SO
BIG?!

THAT'S
HIGH!



OH
NO!







SUZAKU OF THE
SOUTH! BYAKKO
OF THE WEST!
SEIRYU OF THE
EAST! GENBU OF
THE NORTH!
THEY ARE THE
LEGENDARY
GODLY BEASTS,
SAID TO PROTECT
THE FOUR SIDES
OF THE ROYAL
CASTLE!

YES,
IT IS
SÜ-SHIN,
THE FOUR
GODS.

THIS
IS THE
TRUE
FORM
OF THE
FOUR
STARS!



THEY NORMALLY STAY
AT MY SIDE AS THE
FOUR STARS, BUT THEY
BECOME THE FOUR GODS
AND UNLEASH THEIR
TRUE POWERS, AT
MY COMMAND!!

THESE FOUR, WHO
PROTECT ME FROM
FOUR SIDES, ARE
QUADRUPLETS WHO HAVE
MASTERED WEAPONS
THAT MIMIC THE
GODLY BEASTS.

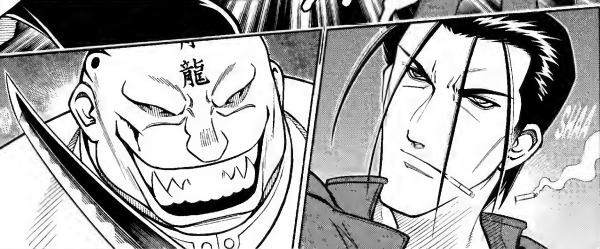


NOW,
SÜ-SHIN...

...ONE
KILL
EACH!!









...TRYING
TO FIGHT
AGAINST
GATOTSU
WITH
RANGE...



YOU SEEM
TO BE ALL
RIGHT,
UNLIKE YOUR
MASTER.

HMPH
...

PTT

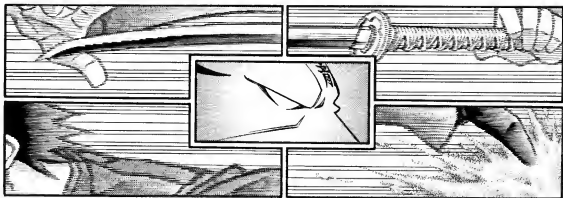


BUT...

...DOESN'T
MAKE YOU
ANY LESS OF
AN IDIOT!!

Rurouni Kenshin





Act 239—Sū-shin Battle—Saitō vs. Seiryū

Act 239

Sū-shin
Battle—
Saitō
vs.
Seiryū

SSA

AA





TMP

DO YOU
PLAN TO DIE
WITHOUT EVEN
TAKING A
STEP?

WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?



I
SAW IT
ALL.

TRYING TO
DEFEAT YOU
WITHOUT KNOWING
YOUR FINISH COULD
HAVE COST ME
MY LIFE.

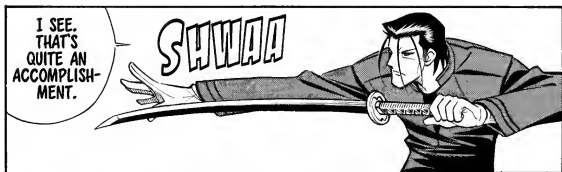
WITH
JUST ONE
GLANCE, I
SAW THAT
YOU ARE NO
ORDINARY
MAN...



...IS
A CHEAP
PRICE FOR
VICTORY.

SACRIFICING
THIS ARM TO
DISCOVER
YOUR MOVES...





I KNOW
ALL
THAT!

HYA!

青龍

SKOO

...WIN
!!

...IF YOU
CANNOT
COUNTER
IT, YOU WILL
NEVER...

WHOO

THE
WEAK
POINT
OF THAT
MOVE...



...IS WHAT
YOU EXTEND AS
A TARGET AND A
COUNTERWEIGHT.

IF I SLIDE
INTO THE
BLIND SPOT
CREATED BY
YOUR RIGHT
ARM...

...YOUR
MOVE IS
VANQUISHED,
NO MATTER
HOW MUCH
YOU TRY!!

YOUR
RIGHT
ARM!!

SHIF
SHIF







THIS ONE HAS COUNTERED GATOTSU BY EXPLOITING THAT WEAKNESS.

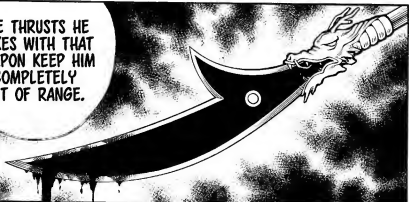
AND SO ONCE THE OPPONENT SLIDES INTO THE BLIND SPOT, REACTION IS DELAYED, NO MATTER HOW HARD ONE TRIES.

ADDITIONALLY, WHILE IN MOTION, A CHARGE LIKE GATOTSU HAS A NARROWED FIELD OF VISION.

GATOTSU, DUE TO ITS NATURE, HAS A BLIND SPOT IN THAT AREA...

EVEN IF SAITÔ READS AHEAD AND ADDS A SIDESWIPE, HIS SWORD WILL NOT REACH...

THE THRUSTS HE MAKES WITH THAT WEAPON KEEP HIM COMPLETELY OUT OF RANGE.



IF IT
KEEPS
GOING THIS
WAY...

ZERO-SHIKI
CAN'T BE
USED OUT
OF RANGE,
EITHER...

NO—

OF COURSE, IF
YOU BRING IT
OUT, I WILL
JUST CONQUER
IT RIGHT AWAY!

TROMP

DO YOU
UNDERSTAND
NOW THAT
YOUR MOVE IS
USELESS?

GIVE IT
UP, AND BRING
OUT YOUR
NEXT MOVE.

...ME...

EXCUSE
...

SHA

YOUR
FREAKISH
SMILE IS
BACK.

!

...YOU SEEM
TO BE
HAVING FUN.

SEIRYŪ
KNOWS
THAT
QUITE
WELL.

LAUGHING
IN THE
MIDST OF
BATTLE IS
BEYOND
RUDE.



YOU
SEE...

...BUT
WHEN FACED
WITH VICTORY,
NATURALLY
...

WEE

ELE



THEN LET ME
GIVE YOU A
PIECE OF
ADVICE...

SO YOU
ARE THE
TYPE WHO
BATTLES FOR ENJOY-
MENT.

SHO
OM

I SAID I
CONQUERED
THAT MOVE
ALR-

THAT
MOVE
AGAIN!!

...A LOSING
BATTLE CAN
ALSO BE
ENJOYED.

BY
LOOKING
AT JUSTICE
BEFORE
VICTORY...

FWINSH





WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?

UHH...

GAH!

THIS
IS ALL IT
TAKES TO
LOSE YOUR
GRIN?

SK KSK KSKSLA

IT'S
OVER.

I DON'T HAVE TIME
TO LISTEN TO THE
RAMBLINGS OF AN UTTER
FOOL WHO ONLY ENJOYS
WINNING BATTLES.

SHIA AK URMPH!

...THE
"SWIFT DEATH TO
EVIL" HE CHOOSES
TO FOLLOW, EVEN
AFTER LOSING THE
WAR AND MANY
COMRADES...

HIS
WORDS OF
JUSTICE
MAKE HIM
STRONG...

SHWAK

IF JUST
DEFEATING
GATOTSU
COULD
BEAT
SAITO
HAJIME...

...OUR
SCORE WOULD
HAVE BEEN
SETTLED IN
KYOTO DURING
BAKUMATSU...

TM

KRICH

AOSHI-SAMA!

FWIP

THEN I
HAVE NO
NEED TO
HOLD
BACK.

I
SEE...

I KNOW
THAT'S
NITÔ-RYŪ,
DUAL-
KODACHI.

WHY
DON'T YOU
DRAW?

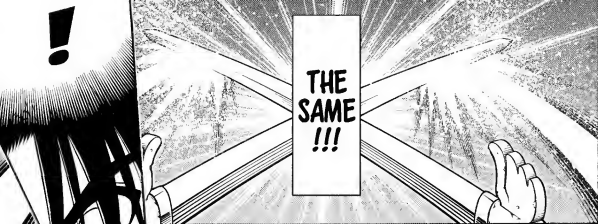
陰陽交叉!!
おん
みよう
ごう

KASHIMU

小太刀二刀流
こ
だ
ち
に
りゅう

ONMYŌ KŌSA
(SHADOW LIGHT
CROSS!!)

KODACHI
NITÔ-RYŪ



SHADOW
LIGHT CROSS,
EXACTLY LIKE
AOSHI-SAMA!!

WHAT
...?

...REFLECTED
BACK TO YOU
UNTIL
DEATH!!

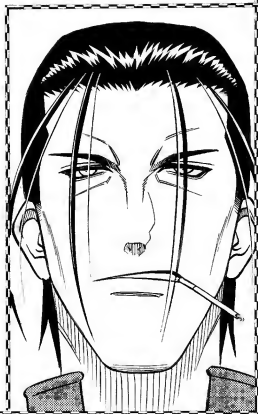
IN OTHER
WORDS,
YOUR MOVES
WILL BE...

...PRIDE
MYSELF IN
MY ABILITY
TO MIMIC AN
OPPONENT'S
MOVES.

I.
SUZAKU...

HEH

Rurouni Kenshin



IN OTHER
WORDS, YOUR
MOVES WILL BE
REFLECTED
BACK TO YOU
UNTIL DEATH!!

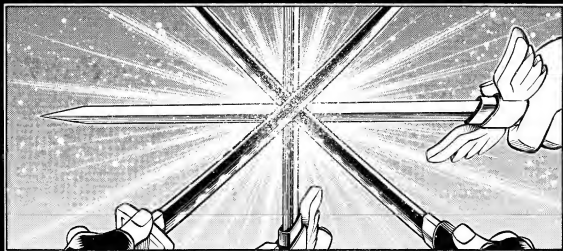


Act 240

**Sū-shin
Battle—
Aoshi
vs.
Suzaku**

伸
仲
和
月

I, SUZAKU, PRIDE
MYSELF IN
MY ABILITY
TO MIMIC AN
OPPONENT'S
MOVES.





FWIP

ONMYO HASSHI
(DUSK TO
DAWN STRIKE!)

KIAA
SHAA
A
NG

陰

おん

陽

みよう

撥

はっ

止!!

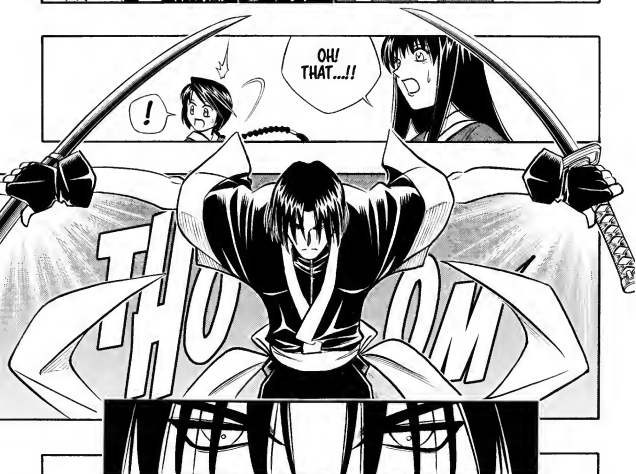
TWAK

DASH

TWAK











...I
ASSUME YOU
UNDERSTAND
WHAT THIS
MEANS.

SINCE YOUR
EXPRESSION
DIDN'T CHANGE
WHEN I
MIMICKED
IT...

IT
LOOKS LIKE
THAT WAS
YOUR BEST
MOVE.

WHOOOOO



FIRING
BACK MOVES
I'VE NEVER
SEEN
BEFORE...

...IS
IMMUTABLE
PROOF
THAT I AM
SLIGHTLY FASTER
THAN YOU!

I AM
SUPERIOR
BY JUST
ENOUGH!!

YOU AND
I ARE NOT
EQUAL.

I HAVE
SEEN YOUR
MOVES. I
KNOW YOUR
TRICKS.

NOW IT
IS MY
TURN TO
ATTACK.

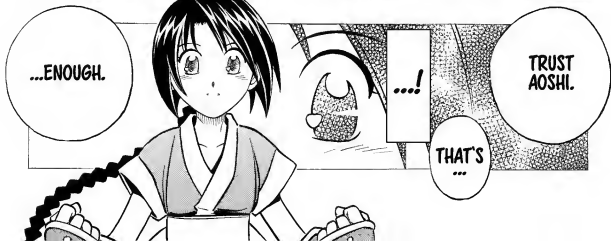
CAN YOU
KEEP UP
WITH ME?

THIS
IS PROOF
THAT THE
MIMICKER CAN
BECOME GREATER
THAN HIS
PREDECESSORS!

ALL FORMS OF
COMBAT BEGIN
BY MIMICKING
THOSE WHO
CAME BEFORE,
AND SO REACH
COMPLETION.

I, WHOSE
MIMICRY IS
BETTER THAN
THE ORIGINAL,
HAVE NO
ENEMIES!!

CHAKK





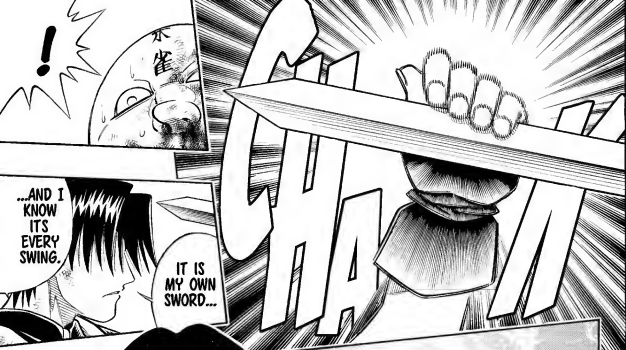
NOW, WHAT
SORT OF
EXPRESSION
...

...WILL
BE
YOUR...

...LAST
??!

THW
ON.





...AND I
KNOW
IT'S
EVERY
SWING.

IT IS
MY OWN
SWORD...

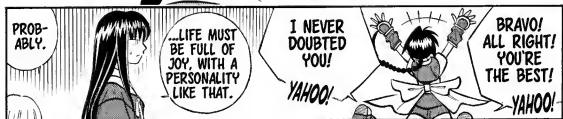
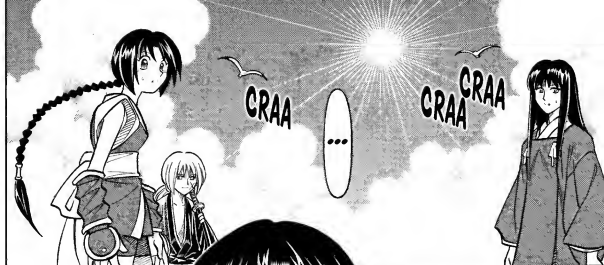


!!!

YOU
ARE NOT
WORTHY
OF
DEATH.

...BUT YOU
ARE JUST A
FOOL, DROWNING
YOURSELF IN
THE PLEASURE
OF BATTLE.

DON'T WORRY...
IF YOU WERE
TRULY FROM THE
SHADOWS, I
WOULD FINISH
YOU RIGHT
NOW...





THIS
IS PAFU
CHEMKUN-
BYAKKO
FISTS!

HOW
DO YOU
LIKE IT,
YOUNG
ONE?



...I HUNT
DOWN MY PREY
EFFICIENTLY,
WITHOUT WASTE.
JUST LIKE THE
TIGER, KING OF
THE JUNGLE,
DOES!!

TAKUSHI
(BOAR'S
FEET)

KOSŌ
(TIGER'S
CLAW)

BY USING THE
FORM MOST
SUITABLE FOR
STRIKING
CERTAIN
LOCATIONS...

GŌTŌGOKU
(FIERCE
STRIKE
HELL)

KETŌSATSU
(FOREIGNER
KILLER)

SASSHŌ
(MAPLE
PALM)



I PLAY NO
TRICKS, LIKE
ANALYZING OR
MIMICKING MY
OPPONENT'S
MOVES.

I.
BYAKKO
...

...PRIDE
MYSELF ON
HAVING THE
FIERCEST
ATTACKS OF
THE FOUR!

I ATTACK.
ATTACK.
ATTACK AND
ATTACK—





?!!

IF YOU
WANT TO
BEAT ME,
COME AT
ME WITH
KNOCKOUT
BLOWS!!

YOU
TALK TOO
MUCH, AND
YOUR WEAK
STRIKES ARE
ANNOYING
!!

KAAAA

Rurouni Kenshin



Sū-shin Battle—Sanosuke vs. Byakko





FWOON



**YOU
IDIOT
!!**

**HOW MANY
TIMES DO
I HAVE TO
TELL YOU?!**

...ALREADY!!

**WHY
DON'T
YOU
LEARN...**

**I TOLD
YOU NOT
TO USE
THAT RIGHT
HAND!**



**ONE
LAST...
...TIME
?**

**LET
ME USE
IT ONE
LAST TIME.**



**LAST
ONE.**

YEAH.

HEH



**USING
YOUR
MEDICINE
CABINET
AS A
WEAPON
...
YOU'RE
STARTING
TO FIT
IN.**

**SHUT
UP!!**

**BUT
WHOSE
SIDE
ARE
YOU
ON?**



...LOSING
TO A
GUY WHO'S
USING
ONLY
HIS LEFT
HAND?

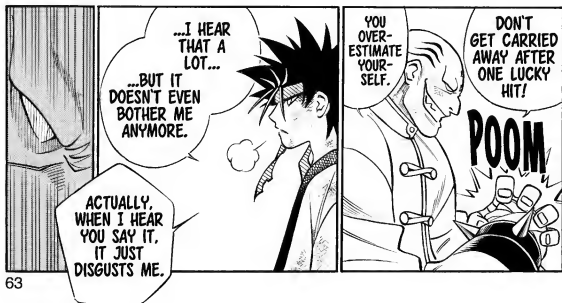
WOULDN'T
YOU BE
HAPPY...

BESIDES
...

SHUU



HAH!



...I HEAR
THAT A
LOT...

...BUT IT
DOESN'T EVEN
BOTHR ME
ANYMORE.

ACTUALLY,
WHEN I HEAR
YOU SAY IT,
IT JUST
DISGUSTS ME.

YOU
OVER-
ESTIMATE
YOUR-
SELF.

DON'T
GET CARRIED
AWAY AFTER
ONE LUCKY
HIT!

POOM

I'M THE
ONE WHO'S
DISGUSTED
!!

YOU
IMBECILE
!!



HOW'S
THIS? YOU
HAVE NO
CHANCE TO
COUNTER—

SABARA
(LEFT
DESTRUC-
TION)

ŌKE!
(RETURN
PRAYER)

GUWASHI
(RIGHT
RING)

HAISHI
(BACK
PERCE)

SŌSHO
(THIN
FIST)

BYŌSHU
(CAT
CLAW)

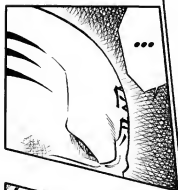
KOTSUDA
(BONE
STRIKE)

RIKEN
(REVERSE
FIST)









FINE...

I'LL PLAY
ALONG WITH YOU
ONE MORE TIME,
SO COME AT
ME WITH A
BIG MOVE.



I TOLD
YOU, SMALL
MOVES
WON'T
WORK.



IF YOU
WANT TO
DIE SO
MUCH!!



IDIOT! IT'S
BECAUSE
HE LET
HIS GUARD
DOWN!



BLINDING
HIM WITH
SAND!



HOW
DIRTY!

TEKKI
(METAL
OGRE!)



PAFU
CHEMKUN—
SHADOW
FORM!





FOR
EXAMPLE,
BIG
MOVES...



...NOT
WORK.



HOW'S
THAT?!



**MASTERY
OF TWO
LAYERS!!**

KABOOH

**...ARE
ONES
LIKE...**

REE

**...THIS
!!**



NO.

IF YOU
USE
THAT—

THAT IDIOT,
WHY DOES
HE GET SO
HEATED?

S
L
A
P



WOWOWOW

!!
WHAT WAS
THAT?!



WOW!

HE USED HIS
RIGHT AND LEFT
FISTS, TO DECREASE
THE STRESS ON
EACH BY MORE
THAN HALF.



THE MASTERY OF
TWO LAYERS IS
A MASTERY OF
DESTRUCTION BY
ELIMINATING RESIST-
ANCE WITH TWO
SIMULTANEOUS
IMPACTS.

UP TO
NOW, HE
HAS BEEN DOING
THIS WITH HIS
RIGHT FIST ONLY.
BUT THIS TIME
WAS DIFFERENT.

TRULY—

...BUT IT
IS SANO-
SUKU'S OWN,
SPECTACULAR
MOVE.

WHO KNOWS
WHEN HE
CAME UP
WITH IT...



NICE!



...THAN EVER
IMAGINABLE.

...HE'S
BECOME
MORE
DEPENDABLE...

ALL OF A
SUDDEN...



I'M NOT
BORED
ENOUGH
TO DANCE
WITH YOU.

LET'S
END THIS
NOW.

I CAN'T
PLAY WITH
YOU ANY
MORE.

GEH!

SKSKSKSHSHH

TMM

HEH

HOW CAN
YOU BE THE
WARRIORS
WHO WEAR
THE CROWN OF
SU-SHIN?!

HOW CAN
YOU NOT WIN
AGAINST SCUM
LIKE THIS?!!

WH-WH-
WH-WH...

WHAT
ARE YOU
ALL DOING
?!



...WITH
ALL MY
MIGHT.

I WILL
FILL THE
AREAS THE
OTHER THREE
LACK...

PLEASE
DO NOT
FRET...



KAMIYA
KASSHIN-
RYŪ
SECRET-

...PRIDE
MYSELF ON
MY EXTREME
BATTLE
STRATEGY...

I
GENBU...

YOU HAVEN'T
EVEN BEEN
ABLE TO MAKE
ONE MOVE
AGAINST THAT
BRAT!

DON'T
BRAG SO
MUCH!

THIS KID
HAS BEEN
LOOKING
FOR A
CHANCE
TO MAKE
A BIG
MOVE.

WHICH IS
WHY I AM
NOT "UNABLE
TO MOVE,"
BUT AM
RATHER
"NOT MOVING"
IN ORDER
TO OBSERVE.

YOU ARE
THE MOST
EMBAR-
RASSING
OF ALL!

YOU'VE
SENSED MY
SECRET
MOVE.
THIS
FOURTH
ONE SEEMS
TO BE
CAUTIOUS.

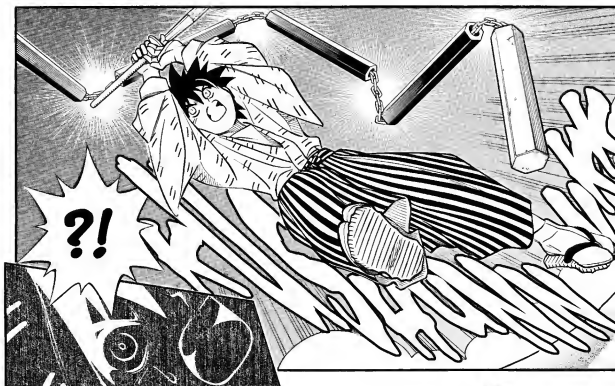
GG...

BUT I
CAN'T
STAY STILL
FOREVER.
PATHS
ARE ONLY
MADE BY
GOING
FORWARD!

WEE

は
わた
り
!!

HAWATARI
(BLADE
CROSSING)!!



"HOW CAN
YOU NOT WIN
AGAINST SCUM
LIKE THIS"...

YAHIKO-
KUN!

THIS
IS BAD,
HIMURA!

IF THE
BOSS IS
SPOUTING
WORDS
LIKE THAT AT
THIS POINT...

...THE
FUTURE OF
THIS BATTLE
IS OBVIOUS.

THIS YUNMŌ
SEIKUAN IS
NOT AN
ORDINARY
STAFF.

IT IS
ACTUALLY A
RETRACTABLE
SIX-JOINTED
MACE!

YOUR
SECRET MOVE
IS USELESS
AGAINST
THIS MACE!



Rurouni Kenshin



Act 242—Sū-shin Battle—Yahiko vs. Genbu



IT IS
CERTAIN,
JUST LOOK
IN HIS
EYES...

IT
WILL BE
FINE.

...GOOD
EYES.

WHOOM
WHOOM
YOUNG
EYES THAT
KNOW NO
YIELDING...

REE

IT
WILL BE
MOST
ENJOYABLE
TO QUENCH
THOSE
EYES!!

SH
SH
SH
HYA!

SKSHSKSHSKSHSKSH

WHOOO

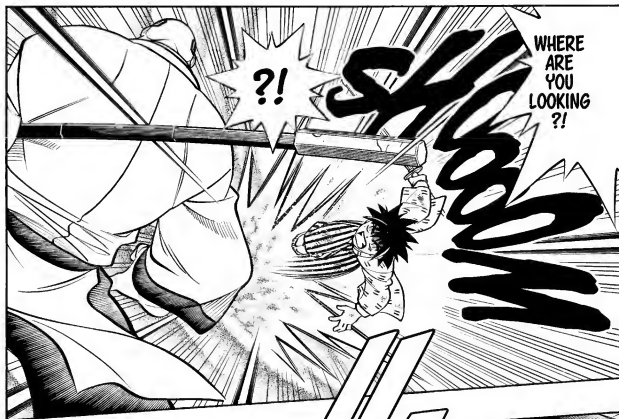
CHAY

CHANK CHANK

REE

KAMIYA
KASSHIN-RYU.
SECRET-







SECRETS
ARE SECRETS
BECAUSE
THEY CAN'T
BE DEFEATED
SO EASILY.

YOU
ARE
THE
FOOL.

AND THIS
OPPONENT
IS JUST
A KID!

I'VE ALSO
GIVEN HIM
TWO HARD
HITS IN THE
STOMACH
AND HEAD.

I HAVE
ALREADY
DEFEATED
HIS MOVE
TWICE.

DON'T BE
CONFUSED
BY HIS
TAUNTS.

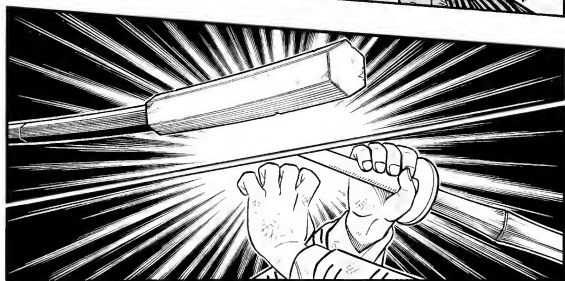
...

ALL
RIGHT,
COME!

I WILL DO
AS YOU
WISH.

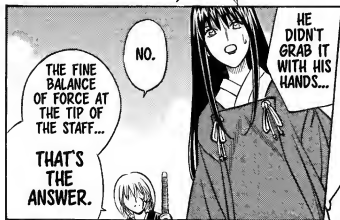
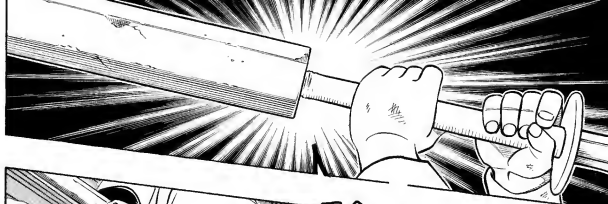
BUT
THIS IS
THE END!!





HERE!!





AND IF GENBU TRIES TO FORCE HIM DOWN, YAHIKO WILL MOVE THE POINT AND USE BLADE CROSSING.

UUHHMPH

IN THIS SITUATION, GENBU WILL HAVE TO BACK OFF IN ORDER TO UNLOCK THE STAFF.

BUT IF HE BACKS AWAY CARELESSLY, HE WILL BE OPEN TO BLADE CROSSING.

YAHIKO UNDERSTANDS THIS PURPOSE, AND WAS NOT STUCK ON THE USUAL FORM...

...ALLOWING HIM TO IMPROVISE ACCORDING TO THE SITUATION, USING THE SECRET TO ITS FULL POTENTIAL.

UUHHMPH

THE PURPOSE OF HADOME—BLADE HALTING—IS TO CREATE A SITUATION WHERE THE OPPONENT'S WEAPON IS STOPPED AND CAN BE BROUGHT TO BLADE CROSSING.

AND—

CRACK

BECAUSE OF ITS BIZARRE CONSTRUCTION, THE STAFF'S DURABILITY IS REALLY REDUCED...

NOW WHAT WILL YOU DO? PUSH, OR BACK OFF? IF YOU DON'T ACT SOON, YOUR WEAPON IS GONE.

FIVE.

FOUR.

EVERY TIME...

...HE FIGHTS...

...HE BECOMES STRONGER...

ONE.

KID, KID, KID,
KIDKIDKIDKID—

YES,
JUST
A KID.

THE
OPPONENT
IS JUST
A KID.

TWO.

THREE.

THINK
HARD.
THINK!

GAH!!

TIME'S
UP.

ZERO.

...LOSE
!!

YOU...

KASHAK

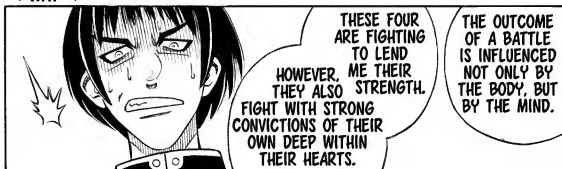
DO YOU
STILL NOT
UNDER-
STAND...?

!

AAAAHHH!

...LOSE
TO SUCH
A KID??

HOW?!
HOW
CAN
SU-
SHIN...





THEY
ARE
TRUSTED
FROM
THE
BOTTOM
OF
THIS
ONE'S
HEART.



THEY
ARE
FRIENDS.



I'LL TURN
YOU ALL INTO
HONEYCOMB
WITH THE
FIREARMS AND
SOLDIERS IN
THE LOWER
MANSION!

DASH

JUST
WAIT,
YOU
MONKEYS
!!



DOOM

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?

I TOLD
YOU TO GET
OUT OF MY
SIGHT...



A
GIRLY
NIN!

AH,
HE'S
RUNNING
!



CRAP.

CRAP
CRAP
CRAP
CRAP!!

YOU
MONKEYS
...!





The Secret Life of Characters (51) —Sū-shin (Four Stars), Sū-shin (Four Gods)—

There is no model for their personalities. Actually, they have none...the Sū-shin were just made to fill out the numbers.

As the story advanced to the final battle, I realized "If it keeps going like this, Sanosuke and the rest will have no glamour," and I made these guys up on the spot. Because they were so irresponsibly made, I named them Sū-shin (Four Stars), but then changed their names to Sū-shin (Four Gods), giving them names according to the four godly beasts. Later I realized what I had done, and tried to patch up the dialogue to make it work, but it got weird. And the battles were not as glamorous as I had hoped for, either. It made me realize that "Having the scenes and plot made way in advance is very important."

There are no models in terms of design either. It was simply an "easy to draw" design, turning them into quadruplets in Chinese costumes without any tone or anything. You can at least tell them apart by the tattoos on their heads and their weapons, but that's it. Misao's comments about "mass produced" hits the bull's eye.



Act 243

The Dragon and the Tiger Meet Again





和伸
月宏

Act 243
**The Dragon and the
Tiger Meet Again**



IS
THAT...

TMP



TMP



TMP

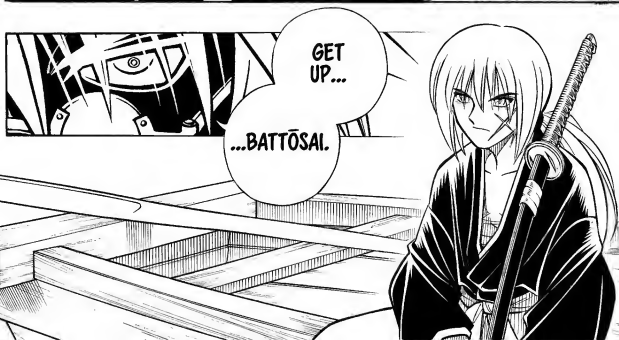
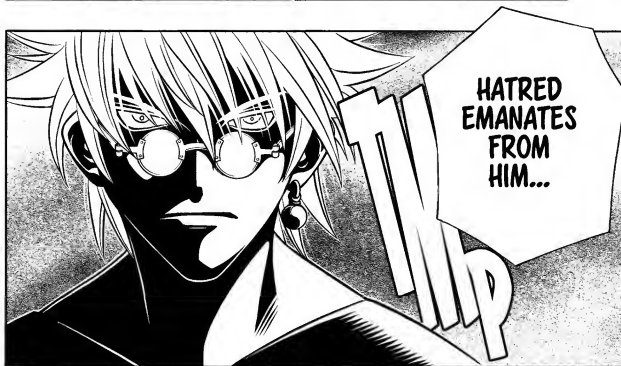


TMP



TMP

...YUKI-
SHIRO
ENISHI...



FSSSS!

**HOLD
IT RIGHT
THERE!!**

YAHIKO!

AH!

**...BUT YOU
STILL
CAN'T
PASS
BY ME.**

**YOU
MAY BE
BLIND TO
ANYONE
BUT HIM...**

**WHERE
IS...
...KAORU
?**





IF YOU DO,
I WILL KILL
YOU FOR
KENSIN, WHO
HAS VOWED
TO NEVER
KILL!!

DON'T
YOU DARE
SAY "SHE'S
NO LONGER
OF THIS
WORLD"...



A
SWORDS-
MAN OF
KATSUJIN-
KEN SHOULD
NOT TALK
ABOUT
KILLING.

SO...



YOU'VE BEEN
THROUGH A LOT
OF GRUELING
BATTLES
RECENTLY,
AND RIGHT
NOW YOU CAN
BARELY
STAND.

TMP

RUB
RUB

YOU'LL
JUST GET
BEAT UP.



IDIOT!

FWUNK

!



I
WILL
KILL
HIM...

...IN
YOUR
PLACE!!



ANSWER
HIM,
MR. DARK
GLASSES!

WHERE'S
KAORU?!

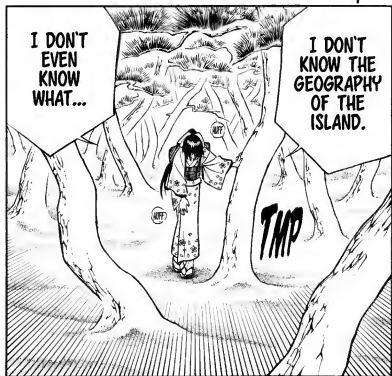
ZOOOSH





I'M
WEARING
GETA!

DON'T
GET SO FAR
AHEAD!



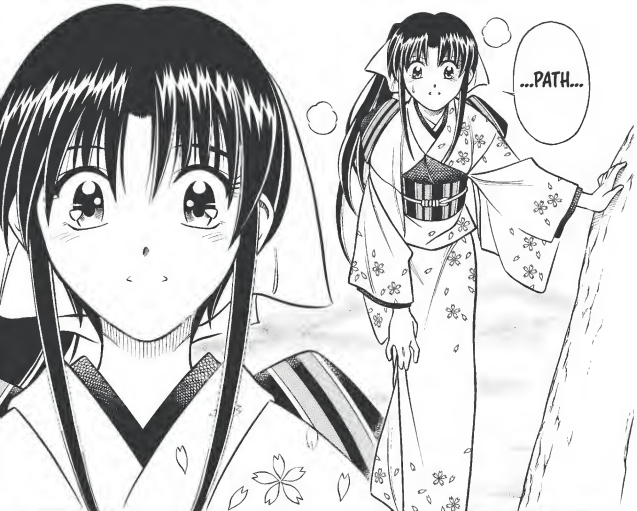
I DON'T
EVEN
KNOW
WHAT...

I DON'T
KNOW THE
GEOGRAPHY
OF THE
ISLAND.



ARGH-

SHEESH!



KEN—



ZOOSH



EVERYONE !



KAORU !!



KAORU-SAN!



SIGH

HEALTHY AS EVER.
SHE SEEMS FINE...



HEH

DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A DOLL THIS TIME.



IF YOU TAKE
ONE STEP
OUT OF THE
FOREST,
I WILL
IMMEDIATELY
KILL YOU!

WOMAN,
YOU
WATCH
BATTOSAI
DIE FROM
THERE!



IF YOU WANT
TO HAVE HER
BACK, FIGHT
ME FOR
YOUR LIFE.



I BROUGHT
HER HERE SO
YOU CAN'T HAVE
THE EXCUSE OF
BEING WORRIED
ABOUT HER
DURING
BATTLE...

...BUT IF I
GIVE HER TO
YOU, YOU MAY
JUST TAKE
OFF.



WHOOOOO



WHAT
SHOULD
I DO...?



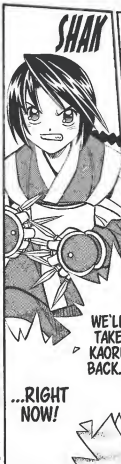
EVEN THOUGH
HE SAYS
HE'LL KILL
ME, HE
CAN'T.

IF I
WANTED
TO GO, I
COULD.

HE CAN'T
KILL
WOMEN
WHO ARE
THE SAME
AGE HIS
SISTER
WAS...



BUT...



SHAK

...KNOW-
ING
KAORU
IS ALIVE.

WE'LL
TAKE
KAORU
BACK...

...RIGHT
NOW!



I DON'T
HAVE ANY
MORE
COMPLAINTS
ABOUT
YOUR
DUEL...

SHA

WELL
...



HEY,
DARK
GLASSES
...

...DON'T
GET
CARRIED
AWAY...

BSH







GOT
IT!

OKAY.







SHA

YOU
WILL SEE
THE TRUE
HELL...THAT
IS THE
ANSWER OF
JINCHU!

...A
LIVING
HELL
IS NOT
GOOD
ENOUGH.

THAT IS
MY
SISTER'S
WISH!!

THIS ONE
CANNOT
DIE YET.

...THAT ANSWER
IS ALSO WRONG.
IF TOMOE WISHED
FOR THIS ONE'S
DEATH, THAT
PATH WOULD HAVE
BEEN CHOSEN
15 YEARS AGO.

CHUK

The Secret Life of Characters (52) —Woo Heishin—

There is no model for him. He was created after the editor's feedback to put some more depth into the "Black Market Weapons Organization." But the organization itself was only created to explain Enishi's financial situation, so adding Heishin didn't seem to change anything. We brought him out as the number two of the organization, but chapters just went by without being able to set his personality, and he became this pathetic creature. Although he was Watsuki's favorite "#2," he turned into an unattractive character. There is one more place where he makes an appearance, but I regret how this character turned out. This pertains to more than just Woo Heishin, because all of the characters in the *Jinchū* chapters show Watsuki's immaturity, so I regret it all.

I'd like to reflect upon this a lot and use the experience towards character creation in my next work.

There is also no model in terms of design. I designed Woo Heishin around the time of the Tomoe episode, and I felt that "Originality is a writer's best weapon!" (I felt it like a body blow occasionally throughout the five years, but this was the decisive blow. I'm so stupid. I would like to retrain and come back.) That made me head in the opposite direction of my influences, creating characters that did not obviously look like others. Woo Heishin was designed to be heavy on the black, as a contrast to the whiteness of Enishi.



Act 244—Sword Strikes

FIFTEEN
YEARS LATER,
THE TWO
FROZEN
EMOTIONS
BEGIN TO
MELT FROM
THE WARMTH
OF ONE
SMILE—

SORROW
...

ON THAT
COLD,
SNOWY
DAY...

...AND
HATRED.

...TWO
EMOTIONS
WERE
TRAPPED
AS IN
ICE—



Act 244—Sword Strikes

LET'S GO,
BATTŌSAI!!

キッパッ

WHOOOM

KOFUKU
CROUCHING
TIGER
ALREADY—?

HE'S
DOWN!

術！ 倭刀
ジュツ ワトウ

WATŌJUTSU!

WHOOOM

WHOOOM

SEN-RAN (BATTLE WIND)

戦嵐^{センラン}

刀勢^{トウセイ}!!!

TÔSEI!!!
(SWORD STRIKE)

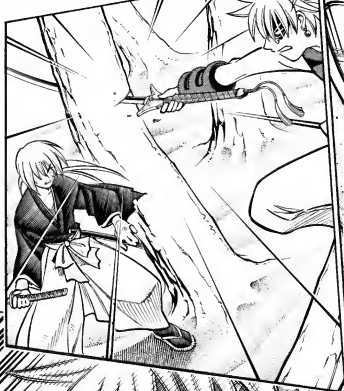
SHANG



KENSHIN!!

THWAK

DIE,
BATTŌSAI
!!



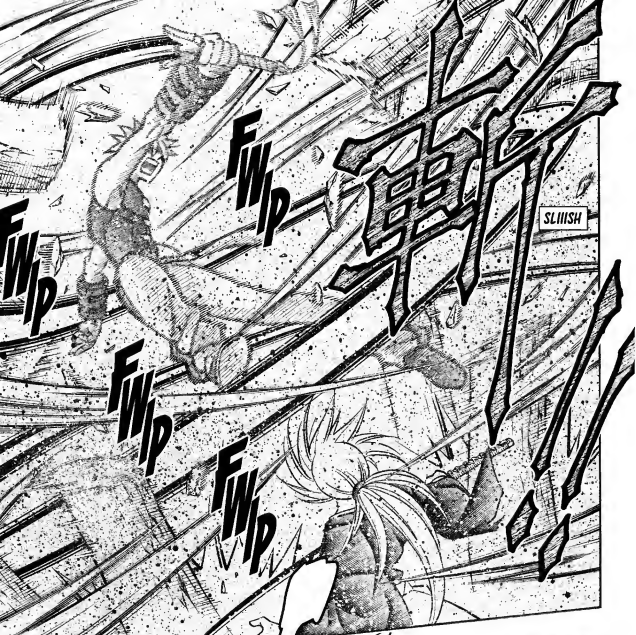
SHOO

SHOO

SHOO

SHOO

HAAAAAH
!!!



飛天御剣流
HITEN
MITSURUGI
RYU—

九頭龍閃!!!

**KUZU-RYŪSEN
(NINE HEADED
DRAGON)!!**

AAAAH
!!!



HAAAA
!!!

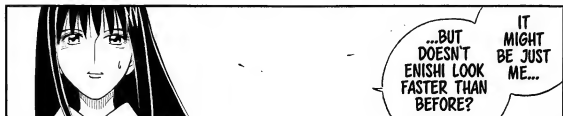
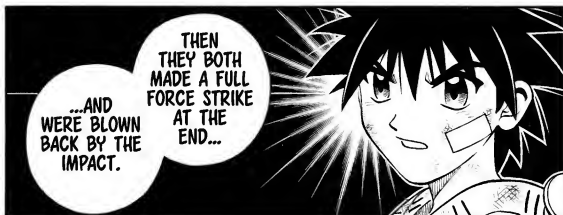










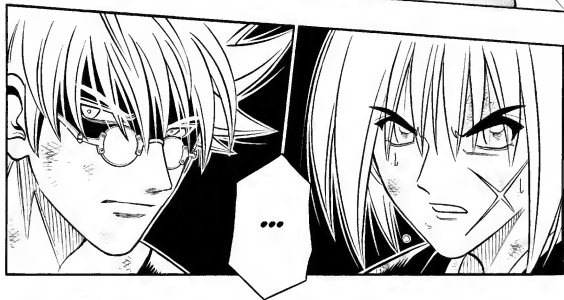






...THE
ANSWER
...?

DID
KENSHIN
FIND...



WHEN
ALL IS
SAID, WE
ARE EQUAL.

OUR
SKILLS ARE
ROUGHLY
EQUAL.



MY
POWER IS
SLIGHTLY
GREATER.

YOUR
SPEED IS
SLIGHTLY
GREATER.



...IS
HEIGHT.

BUT
ANOTHER
ASPECT WE
CAN TEST...



ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT
CHÖTEN
TÖSEI?

THAT SMALL
MOVE IS
ONLY THE
BEGINNING.

...WE
ARE ON
SAND.

YOU WILL
NOT BE ABLE
TO GAIN HEIGHT
BY USING YOUR
SWORD.



...IS
ONLY THE
BEGINNING
FOR
WATÖ-
JUTSU.

SIMPLY
JUMPING
UP IN
THE
AIR...

WHOOOOOOOOOO

Rurouni Kenshin



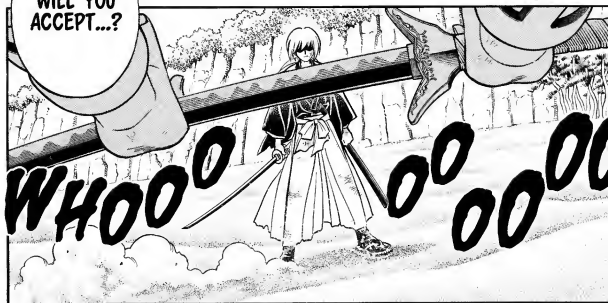
Hiten Mitsurugi-ryū Defeated





HOW ABOUT IT?

WILL YOU ACCEPT...?



THE STARTING SIGNAL.

FAIR ENOUGH.

HMPH.

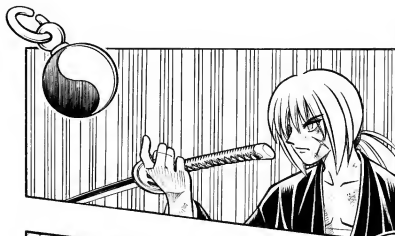
...THAT YOUR DUEL HAS BEEN ACCEPTED?

WAS THERE ANY DOUBT...



...THIS ONE WILL ACCEPT.

NO MATTER WHAT YOUR CHALLENGE MAY BE...





HITEN
MITSURUGI-
RYU—

OF
COURSE!
HIMURA
JUMPS
HIGHER!!



WA-
T-
H



!?

REEE

SHU

疾空刀勢!!!
シツ
クウ
トウ
セイ

SHIKKŪ TŌSEI
(SKY STRIDE
SWORD STRIKE)!!!

FW
倭刀術
ワタージュツ
ワTŌJUTSU



AT THE
PEAK OF THE
LEAP, WHERE
THE FORCE OF
THE JUMP AND
THE FORCE OF
GRAVITY ARE
COMPLETELY
EQUAL...

...THE
UPWARD
AND
DOWNWARD
FORCES
BECOME
ZERO, MAKING
HIM FLOAT.

IF
YUKISHIRO
ENISHI CREATES
MOMENTUM WITH
HIS STRENGTH AND
SWORD AT THIS
EXACT MOMENT,
IT IS NOT
IMPOSSIBLE...

HE TOOK
ANOTHER
LEAP
MIDAIR...

HE
CHARGED
AT
KENSIN!

SKY
STRIDING,
HUH?

THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE
!!

NO...



ARE
YOU SURE
YOU WANT
TO FORCE ME
UP HIGHER?

DON'T
YOU UNDER-
STAND THAT
YOU HAVE NO
CONTROL OF
A MIDAIR
BATTLE?



龍
翔
閃
!!

RYŪSHŌSEN!!

飛
天
御
劍
流

HITEN
MITSURUGI-
RYŪ—



I CONTROL
THIS
FIGHT!!!

SHIKKŪ
TOSEI!!!

疾
速
力
勢
!!!

!!!

NO





飛天御剣流

龍巻閃!!

HITEN
MITSURUGI-
RYU
RYUKANSEN
(DRAGON
SPIRAL
STRIKE)!!

倭刀術

戦風刀勢

WATOJUTSU
SENTRAN
TOSEI!!!

HAAA
!!

UH!!

HAHAAK!

SKSKSHHH

HAAA
!!

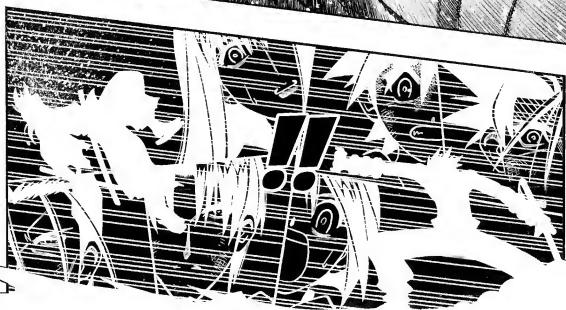
飛天

御剣流

HITEN
MITSURUGI-
RYU

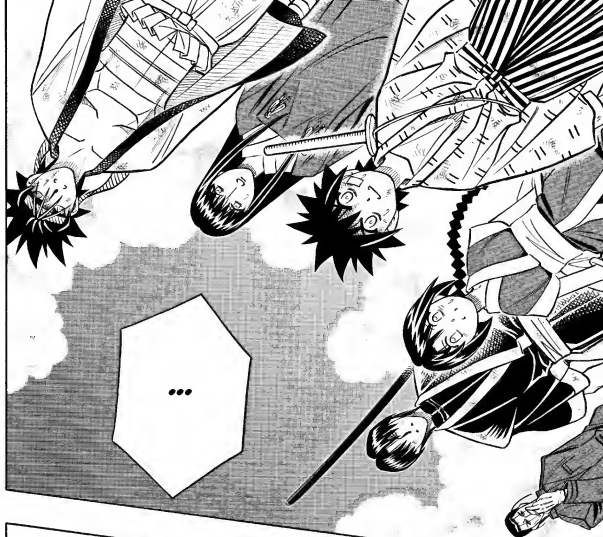
九頭

KUZU-



SHOO WO/K





AND NOW
KENSHIN CAN'T
EVEN GET OFF
THE FIRST
STRIKE...

THE
SECOND
WAS
COMPLETELY
BLOCKED...

SO THE
FIRST WAS
A FULL
HIT.

KUZU-
RYŪSEN
WAS...

AND IT'S NOT
JUST BECAUSE
HE'S MADE UP HIS
MIND TO KILL
THIS TIME.

IT'S
SEEPING
OUT FROM
SOMEWHERE
DEEP INSIDE...

ENISHI'S

...
...STRONGER
THAN
BEFORE...





NEGATIVE
POWERS
SPRINGING
FROM
EVERY
POSSIBLE
NEGATIVE
EMOTION...

HATE,
REVENGE,
WRATH,
REJEC-
TION,
CURSE,
DESTRUC-
TION,
DEATH,
GRUDGE
...



RYÜTSUISEN,
DRAGON HAMMER
STRIKE, RYÜSHÖSEN,
DRAGON FLIGHT STRIKE,
COUNTERED BY SHIKKŪ
TÖSEI, RYÜKANSEN
DOES NOT
WORK AGAINST
SEN-RAN TÖSEI.

AMA-
KAKERY
RYÜ NO
HIRAMEKI
HAS
ALREADY
BEEN
COUNTERED.

SSH
HH
HH

AND
THIS...

...MEANS
KUZU-RYÜSEN
WILL NOT
LAND, NO
MATTER
WHAT.



...ALL
OF HIS
FINISHING
MOVES
HAVE BEEN
DEFEATED.

IN
JUST TWO
DUELS...

...HE IS
OVERWHELMED
BY YUKISHIRO
ENSHI'S STRENGTH
FROM HIS
NEGATIVE
EMOTIONS!

NO MATTER
HOW STRONG
KENSIN
BECOMES,
UNDER THE
BURDEN OF
GUILT FROM
HIS CRIMES...

HE CAN'T
WIN LIKE
THIS...



KENSIN
...

KENSIN HAS
TO FIND THE
ANSWER HE
HAS BEEN
LOOKING FOR ALL
THIS TIME...

THE
ANSWER...

**GET UP,
HITOKIRI
BATTŌSAI!!**

GET UP.
LET'S BEGIN
YOUR
EXECUTION...

I HAVE NOT
REVEALED
MY SECRET
MOVE, OR
EVEN KOFUKU
ZETTŌSEI...

TMP

TMP

TMP

ARE YOU
GIVING UP
ALREADY...?

...THE WAY
TO ATONE
FOR THE
CRIMES
OF THE
HITOKIRI,
AND FOR
MURDERING
TOMOE!!!

AND THE
ANSWER
THIS
TRUTH
LED TO
IS...

KSSH

...TO
GET
UP.

THERE'S
NO NEED
TO TELL
THIS
ONE...

THE
LIVING HELL
YOU CREATED
WAS THE
LAST PLACE
THIS ONE
WILL EVER
CROUCH.

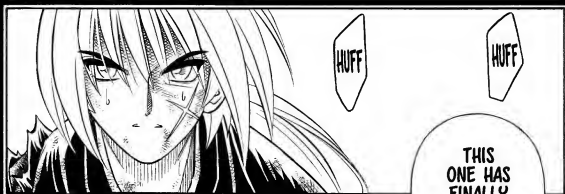
THIS ONE
FINALLY
DISCOVERED
IT IN THAT
LIVING HELL...

!

...THE
SINGLE
TRUTH THIS
ONE WILL
NEVER
CHANGE.

Rurouni Kenshin





HUFF

HUFF

THIS
ONE HAS
FINALLY
DISCOVERED...

...THE
HITOKIRI'S
SIN.

Act 246
The
Answer

THE
SIN OF
MURDERING
TOMOE...

...AND
THE ANSWER
TO ATONE
FOR EVERY-
THING.



和伸
月宏



YOU'VE
FINALLY
REALIZED
...

...I
SEE.

JUST GIVE
IN TO YOUR
PUNISHMENT!!

REVE!

THEN
STOP
FIGHTING
IT!



KOOSH

倭刀術

ワトウジツ

WATOUJITSU—

GÔTSUI TÔSEI
(THUNDERING
HAMMER
SWORD STRIKE!)

車車墮刀勢!

ゴウ ツイ トウ セイ

UGH!

KEN-SAN!

GAH!

KSSSS

HAAA
!!

F
W
W
W
W
W

BUT THERE IS
NO WAY FOR
THE DEAD TO
CARRY OUT
THIS SENTENCE!
THAT IS WHY A
LOVED ONE WILL
CARRY IT OUT
FOR THEM!

THE CRIME
OF MURDER
IS PAID FOR
BY THE
PUNISHMENT
OF DEATH!



THIS
IS THE
ANSWER
!!

THE
CRIMINAL
WILL DIE IN
REGRET AND
ANGUISH!

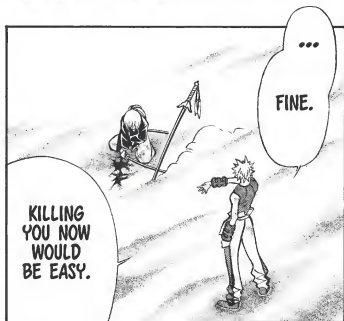
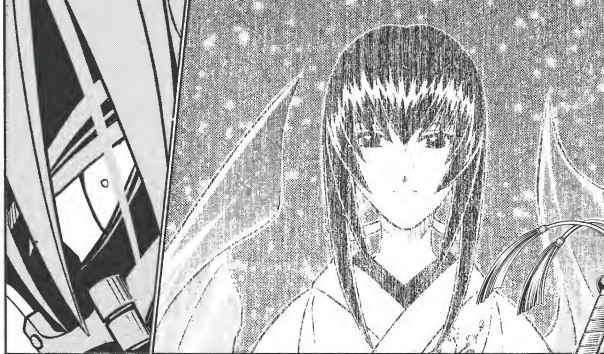
PLUUP

GET
UP!!

GET UP!
YOU'VE
STILL
MUCH
REPARA-
TION TO
MAKE!









**TAKE
YOUR
OWN
LIFE.**



**AND
DIE.**

**THROW ASIDE YOUR
HYPOCRITICAL SAKABATŌ, AND
BY YOUR OWN WILL TAKE
UP THIS SWORD OF JUSTICE.**



DIE DIE DIE
DIE DIE DIE
DIE DIE DIE
DIE!

DIE
DIE
DIE!

DIE
DIE!

DIE
DIE
DIE!

DIE
DIE
DIE!

DIE
DIE
DIE!

DIE DIE
DIE DIE
DIE!

DIE DIE
DIE DIE
DIE DIE
DIE!

DIE
DIE
DIE!

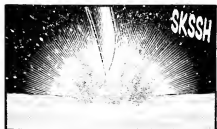
DIE
DIE
DIE!

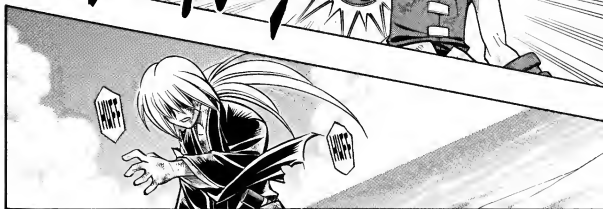
DIE
DIE
DIE!

DIE DIE
DIE DIE
DIE DIE
DIE DIE
DIE DIE
DIE DIE
DIE!

DIE

READ
THIS
WAY





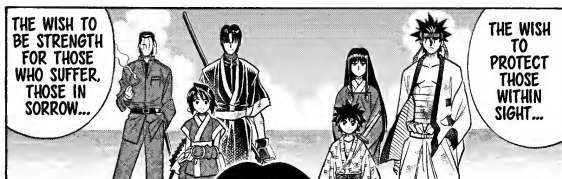
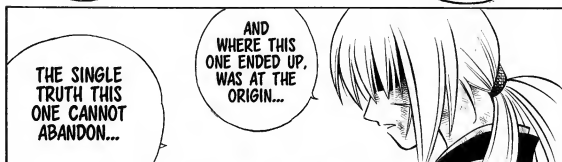




ABOUT
SIN...ABOUT
JUDGMENT...

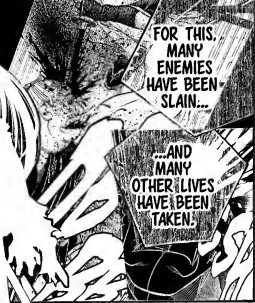
ABOUT
LIFE...ABOUT
DEATH...

ENISHI,
THIS ONE
THOUGHT MUCH
WHILE IN
THE LIVING
HELL...



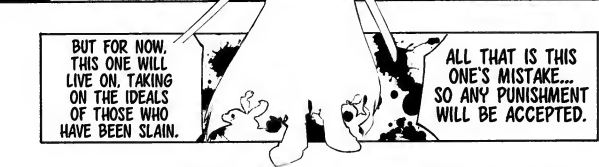


THIS ONE DID NOT REALIZE THAT THE SLAIN WERE FIGHTING WITH THE SAME REASON AT HEART...



FOR THIS, MANY ENEMIES HAVE BEEN SLAIN...

...AND MANY OTHER LIVES HAVE BEEN TAKEN!



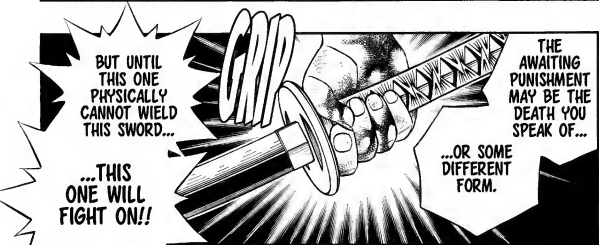
BUT FOR NOW, THIS ONE WILL LIVE ON, TAKING ON THE IDEALS OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN SLAIN.

ALL THAT IS THIS ONE'S MISTAKE... SO ANY PUNISHMENT WILL BE ACCEPTED.



THIS ONE WILL FIGHT ON, WITH THE VOW TO NEVER KILL AGAIN!!

THIS ONE WILL LIVE ON, BRINGING AS MANY SMILES, AS MUCH HAPPINESS AS POSSIBLE.



BUT UNTIL THIS ONE PHYSICALLY CANNOT WIELD THIS SWORD...

...THIS ONE WILL FIGHT ON!!

THE AWAITING PUNISHMENT MAY BE THE DEATH YOU SPEAK OF...

...OR SOME DIFFERENT FORM.

**"VOWING TO
THE SWORD
AND SOUL,
THIS LIFE
OF BATTLES
WILL BE
FOLLOWED
THROUGH!"
THIS IS THE
ANSWER
THIS
ONE HAS
COME TO!!**





KENSIN
...



...HMPH.



THAT'S
A
SUITABLE
ANSWER
FOR
YOU.



BUT
HIMURA
WILL
DO IT!



...IN
SOME
SENSE,
IT WILL
BE A LIFE
HARSHER
THAN DEATH
ITSELF.



THAT'S
A
SUITABLE
ANSWER
FOR
YOU.



KEN-
SAN...

HE WILL
DEFINITELY
DO IT!!





...YOU
THINK THAT
WILL MAKE
MY SISTER
FORGIVE
YOU?



AND...

WHOOOOO



...TOMOE
FINALLY
SMILED IN
RETURN...

WHEN
THIS ONE
CAME TO THE
ANSWER AND
TRIED TO
STAND...



THIS ONE
IS NOT
SURE...

...BUT...



IN YOUR
MIND...



ENISHI...



...IS
TOMOE
SMILING
AT YOU...?



“FREE TALK”

Long time no see. This is Watsuki, who was told by an ex-assistant who read this column in the previous volume that I am “over.” A friend also said “Hum” in a very cold manner.

Undeterred by the rain or wind of society, let's talk about figures and games again.

In terms of figures, I have not bought a single European toy for three months. What happened to Watsuki? I am looking forward to the already pre-ordered complete transformation *Getter Robo* (Studio Half-Eye). I have stated before that “it is not my taste to spend \$300-400 for figures,” but this one is a reward to myself for hitting five years in publication. And look, it transforms into Getter 1, 2, and 3 separately, so each of them would be about \$100 (what a crappy argument). In terms of “Gachapon,” there's always something I want, so I'm having lots of fun there.

In games, it's *Raising Zan* (UEP Sytems, Playstation) and *To Heart* (Aquaplus, Playstation). Right now, I'm at the climax of writing the manga, so both games have been left off about half way through. And as can be seen above, they've had some influence. Isn't *To Heart* quite fitting for Watsuki...? Well, I guess I would be worried if it was fitting. Okay, I'm “over”!! “Hum” is okay!!! But false rumors are not okay. Watsuki has never played any girly game other than *To Heart*, and is not collecting all the toys related to it. I am actually more of a “passionate” type of person rather than an “infatuated” type of person (or else *Ruro-Ken* would be a “Meiji Love Story” rather than a “Meiji Swordsman Story”). I am not that deep into it.

I really have no time these days. It is often said that time is money, but this is incorrect. Time is more valuable than money. Right now, I really want some time to rest my brain. I would like to just vegetate and reset my operating system. There are differences between how I think now and five years ago, but it's all mixed up and disorganized, so I'd like to have some time to take care of this soon. So, the theme for Watsuki in the second half of this year is “Change time priorities.”

In terms of manga, we'll just pass this time. If you can, please read the magazines. See you in the next volume.



KILL!

KILL!

KILL
!!!

Plop

Plop

Plop

Plop



NO...I
HAVEN'T READ
ANYTHING ABOUT
IT IN THE
ONIWABAN
RECORDS...

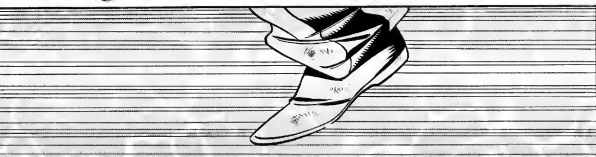
Plop

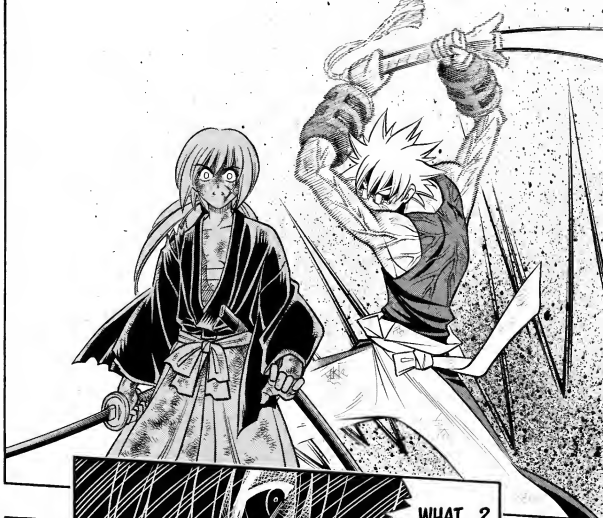
AND...
...WHAT
WAS IT? EVEN
YOU DON'T
KNOW?



Act 247
Kyōkeimyaku
(Frenzied Nerves)

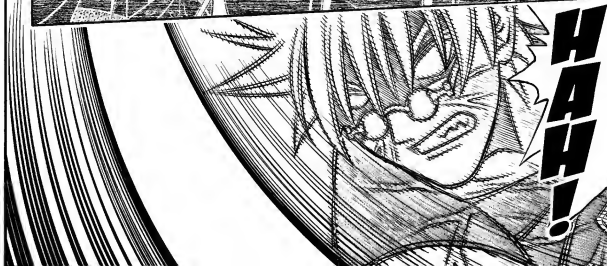


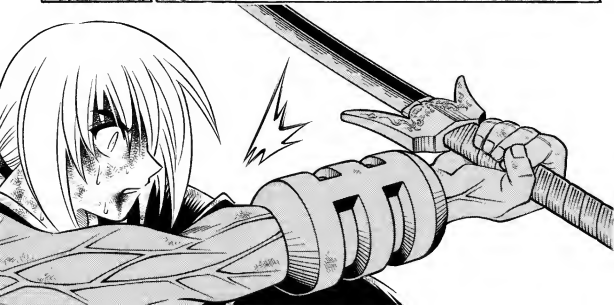




WHAT...?

KEN—





!!

HE'S
GAINED
SPEED!!

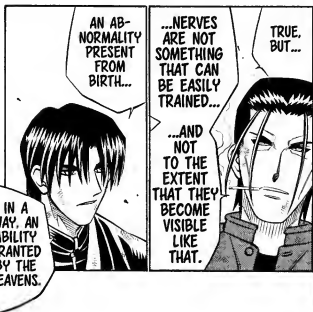
HIHIHIHIHI

I
KNEW
IT...

THOSE
AREN'T
VEINS...

THEY'RE
...

KENSHIN!



...NERVES
!!!





THIS
ABILITY
WAS
GIVEN
TO ME...

ABILITY
GRANTED
BY THE
HEAVENS...
WRONG.

...IN
ORDER
TO TAKE
REVENGE
ON YOU!

...GIVEN
TO ME
BY MY
SISTER...

DAY
AND
NIGHT
...

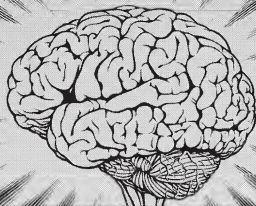
SUNNY
DAYS,
RAINY
DAYS...

SPRING,
SUMMER,
AUTUMN,
WINTER...

I KEPT
HATING,
EVEN AS
MY HAIR
TURNED
WHITE AND
I DRIFTED
TO
SHANGHAI...

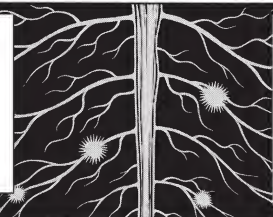
SINCE
THAT
DAY IN
THE SNOW,
I HAVE
HATED
YOU...

IT NEVER
SLEPT, AND
MAINTAINED
A CONSTANT
ACTIVE STATE!



IT WAS AS
THOUGH MY
BRAIN WAS
FEEDING ON
MY HATRED
FOR YOU.

MY CONSTANTLY
ACTIVE BRAIN
EVENTUALLY
TRIGGERED MY
NERVES TO
GROW THICKER,
GRADUALLY
HONING THEM...



A NORMAL
PERSON RESTS
THEIR BODY
AND BRAIN BY
SLEEPING, BUT
MY BRAIN WAS
ACTIVE EVEN
DURING SLEEP!

...MY NERVES HAVE
DEVELOPED TO THE
POINT THAT I CAN
SENSE THE ELECTRICITY
FLOWING WITHIN ME!

AND
IN 15
YEARS...

KYŌKEIMYAKU—
FRENZIED
NERVES!!

THIS
IS MY
HIDDEN
HAND...

KSNNNNH

FOOSH

KOOSH!

IT'S
USELESS!!

LEFT—

YOU SPEED UP
YOUR REACTIONS
BY READING
YOUR
OPPONENT'S
MOVES...

KYŌKEIMYAKU
SPEED
IS OF A
DIFFERENT
NATURE!

...BUT I CAN
REACT AFTER
MY OPPONENT
HAS MOVED, AND
STILL MAKE
IT IN TIME!

KSH

KSH

KSH

KSH

KSH

KSH

KSH

KSH

KSH

KSH

KSH

MY SKIN
CAN FEEL
EVERY SINGLE
GRAIN OF
SAND!!

MY EYES
CAN
FOLLOW
EVERY
DROP OF
BLOOD
IN THE
AIR!!

HITEN OR NOT,
ALL OF MY
SENSES CAN
FIND YOU, AND
MY MUSCLE
NERVES WILL—

MY EARS
CAN HEAR
EVERY
CRACK
OF YOUR
BONES!!



SPLASH

S

H

H

ON

MM

M

H
A
A

H
A
A

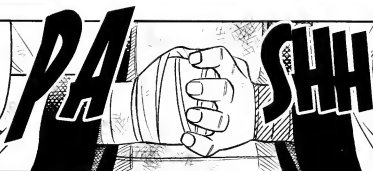




HITEN
MITSURUGI-RYŪ
ITSELF HAS BEEN
DEFEATED.

WITH
HEIGHT
AND
SPEED...

...THIS
IS IT.



...IT
SEEMS
LIKE...

...DIE
HERE.

I
CAN'T
LET
HIM...

I'D PLANNED ON
STAYING OUT OF
THIS DUEL, BUT
I HAVE NO
CHOICE...

I'LL TAKE
CARE OF
THE REST.

HEY MEGUMI,
GET HIM OUT
OF THERE
AND TREAT
HIM.





RIGHT.

...

I DON'T
WANT TO
LET
HIMURA
DIE
EITHER...

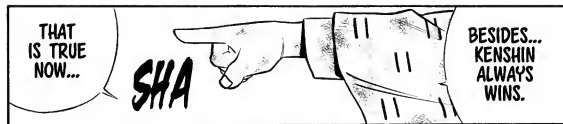
AOSHI-
SAMA!

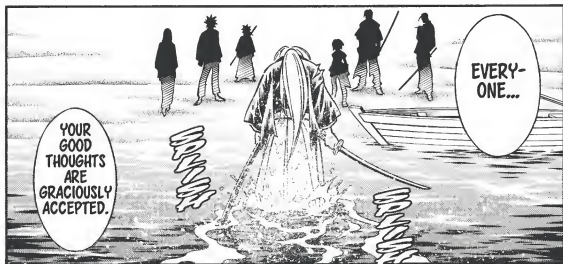


TMP



HOLD
IT!





YOUR
DEFEAT
HAS NO
MEANING
AT THIS
POINT!

THAT'S
RIGHT!

YOUR DEATH
IS THE ONLY
THING THAT
WILL SAVE
MY SISTER
AND ME!!

DESPAIR YOUR
DEFICIENT
SWORD,
AND DIE!!

YOUR HITEN
MITSURUGI-RYŪ
IS NOTHING WHEN
FACED WITH MY
WATŌJUTSU AND
KYŌKEIMYAKU!

HERE I
COME!!

THP

疾空

シツ
クウ

SHIKKŪ—

倭刀術!!

ワ
トウ
ジュツ

WATŌJUTSU!!

SHOOOP

TŌSEI!!

刀勢

トウ
セイ

SHOOM

斬!!

ザン

ザン

ザン

ザン

ザン

ザン

ザン

ザン

ザン

ザン

ザン

ザン

ザン

HITEN
MITSURUGI-RYŪ
HAS PROTECTED
PEOPLE FROM
SUFFERING
IN MANY
ERAS.

THE POWER OF
YOUR SWORD
MAY BE
GREATER
THAN THIS
ONE'S...

ENISHI
...

GRIP

THERE
IS NO
LIMIT!!!

...BUT YOU
SEE ONLY
POWER, AND
JUDGE BASED
ONLY ON
POWER.

CHAK

HITEN
MITSURUGI-RYŪ—

飛天
御剣流
ひてん
みけんりゅう

RYŪMEISEN
(DRAGON
HOWL STRIKE)!!

龍
鳴
りゅう
めい

閃
せん

?!

To Be Continued
in Vol. 28:
Toward A New Era

GLOSSARY of the RESTORATION

*A brief guide to select Japanese terms used in **Rurouni Kenshin**. Note that, both here and within the story itself, all names are Japanese style—i.e., last or “family” name first, with personal or “given” name following. This is both because **Kenshin** is a “period” story, as well as to decrease confusion—if we were to take the example of Kenshin’s sakabatō and “reverse” the format of the historically established assassin-name “Hitokiri Battōsai,” for example, it would make little sense to then call him “Battōsai Himura.”*

Himura Kenshin

Kenshin’s “real” name, revealed to Kaoru only at her urging

Hiten Mitsurugi-ryū

Kenshin’s sword technique, used more for defense than offense. An “ancient style that pits one against many,” it requires exceptional speed and agility to master.

hitokiri

An assassin. Famous swordsmen of the period were sometimes thus known to adopt “professional” names—**Kawakami Gensai**, for example, was also known as “Hitokiri Gensai.”

Ishin Shishi

Loyalist or pro-Imperialist **patriots** who fought to restore the Emperor to his ancient seat of power

jinchū

Hitokiri were fond of the word *tenchū*, or “judgment from the heavens,” which expressed their belief that judgment lay in their hands. Enishi calls his form of revenge **jinchū**, meaning that if the heavens won’t cast judgment on Kenshin, he will with his own brand of justice.

Kamiya Kasshin-ryū

Sword-arts or *kenjutsu* school established by Kaoru’s father, who rejected the ethics of **Satsujin-ken** for **Katsujin-ken**

Bakumatsu

Final, chaotic days of the Tokugawa regime

-chan

Honorific. Can be used either as a diminutive (e.g., with a small child—“Little Hanako or Kentarō”), or with those who are grown, to indicate affection (“My dear...”).

-dono

Honorific. Even more respectful than **-san**; the effect in modern-day Japanese conversation would be along the lines of “Milord So-and-So.” As used by Kenshin, it indicates both respect and humility.

Edo

Capital city of the **Tokugawa Bakufu**; renamed **Tokyo** (“Eastern Capital”) after the Meiji Restoration

Gatotsu

The signature move of Saitō Hajime, series creator Watsuki reportedly based his (fictional) version on an actual, historical, horizontal (or “flat”) sword-technique. There are four “types” of **Gatotsu**: **Isshiki**, **Nishiki**, and **Sanshiki** (Variants One, Two and Three), as well as **Gatotsu Zeroshiki**—the final technique which doubles or even triples the power of the original thrust.

geta

Japanese wooden sandals. They are named for the noise they make when walking.

sakabatô

Reversed-edge sword (the dull edge on the side the sharp should be, and vice versa); carried by Kenshin as a symbol of his resolution never to kill again

-sama

Honorific. The respectful equivalent of **-san**, **-sama** is used primarily in addressing persons of much higher rank than one's self...or, in a romantic sense, in addressing those upon whom one is crushing, wicked hard.

-san

Honorific. Carries the meaning of "Mr.," "Ms.," "Miss," etc., but used more extensively in Japanese than its English equivalent (note that even an enemy may be addressed as **"-san"**).

Satsujin-ken

"Swords that give death"; a style of swordsmanship rejected by Kaoru's father

shôgun

Feudal military ruler of Japan

shôgunate

See **Tokugawa Bakufu**

"Swift Death to Evil!"

Although there is some debate on who originated the term (some say it was the personal slogan of Saitô Hajime; others hold it to be a more general motto of the Shinsengumi itself), a more liberal translation of **"Aku • Soku • Zan"** might be "Evil Unto Evil"...where, in this case, the "evil" would be beheading, or death.

Tokugawa Bakufu

Military feudal government which dominated Japan from 1603 to 1867

Tokyo

The renaming of **"Edo"** to **"Tokyo"** is a marker of the start of the **Meiji Restoration**

Katsujin-ken

"Swords that give life"; the sword-arts style developed over ten years by Kaoru's father and founding principle of **Kamiya Kasshin-ryû**

Kawakami Gensai

Real-life, historical inspiration for the character of **Himura Kenshin**

kodachi

Medium-length sword, shorter than the **katana** but longer than the **wakizashi**. Its easy maneuverability also makes for higher defensive capability.

-kun

Honorific. Used in the modern day among male students, or those who grew up together, but another usage—the one you're more likely to find in **Rurouni Kenshin**—is the "superior-to- inferior" form, intended as a way to emphasize a difference in status or rank, as well as to indicate familiarity or affection.

Kyoto

Home of the Emperor and imperial court from A.D. 794 until shortly after the **Meiji Restoration** in 1868

loyalists

Those who supported the return of the Emperor to power; **Ishin Shishi**

Meiji Restoration

1853-1868; culminated in the collapse of the **Tokugawa Bakufu** and the restoration of imperial rule. So called after Emperor Meiji, whose chosen name was written with the characters for "culture and enlightenment."

patriots

Another term for **Ishin Shishi**... and, when used by Sano, not a flattering one

rurouni

Wanderer, vagabond